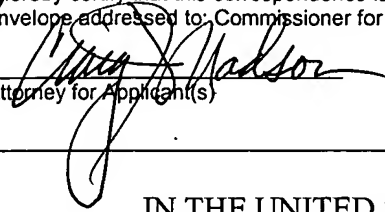


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 2, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/726,217
Applicant : Alan John Smith et al.
Filed : December 2, 2003

TC/A.U. : (not yet assigned)
Examiner : (not yet assigned)

Docket No. : 3146.2.46

Customer No. : 21552

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing information which has come to the attention of applicants and/or their attorneys and is being submitted so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the enclosed Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application or before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits.

Neither applicants nor their attorneys make any representation that any information disclosed herein may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Moreover, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the

information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Accordingly, we are not enclosing copies of the references.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, transmitted herewith are:

1. A completed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" listing the patents, publications and other information being submitted for consideration; and
2. A legible copy of each patent, publication and other item of information in written form listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A (for applications filed after June 30, 2003), except for copies of U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications which are not required for applications filed after June 30, 2003.

As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A are not required and, therefore, not included herewith.


CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

I hereby certify that no item of information listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

I hereby certify that each item of information listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart

foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

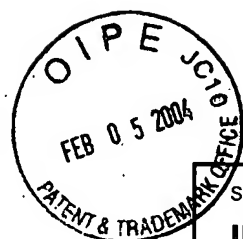
Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 29,407
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: February 2, 2004

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/726,217
Filing Date	December 2, 2003
First Named Inventor	Alan John Smith
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	3146.2.46

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	U1	US-2,596,594	May 13, 1952	Petre	
	U2	US-2,641,478	June 9, 1953	Sigg	
	U3	US-3,114,401	Dec. 17, 1963	Johnson	
	U4	US-4,448,097	May 15, 1984	Rocca	
	U5	US5,450,775	Sep. 19, 1995	Kozak	
	U6	US-5,533,429	Jul. 9, 1996	Kozak	
	U7	US-5,819,612	Oct. 13, 1998	Anderson	
	U8	US-868,048	Feb. 9, 1999	Cassutti, et al.	
	U9	US-5,904,080	May 8, 1999	Anderson, et al.	
	U10	US-6,120,363	Sep. 19, 2000	Dunn	
	U11	US-6,202,512	March 20, 2001	O'Brien, et al.	
	U12	US-6,209,428	Apr. 3, 2001	Anderson, et al.	
	U13	US-6,260,980	Jul. 17, 2001	Ping	
	U14	US-6,286,400	Sept. 11, 2001	Anderson, et al.	
	U15	US-6,305,256	Oct. 23, 2001	Anderson, et al.	
	U16	US-6,352,010	Mar. 5, 2002	Giarritta, et al.	
	U17	US-6,354,177	March 12, 2002	Peters	
	U18	US-6,408,723	June 25, 2002	Zurbuchen	
	U19	US-6,425,307	Jul. 30, 2002	Chen	
	U20	US-6,494,121	Dec. 17, 2002	Hu	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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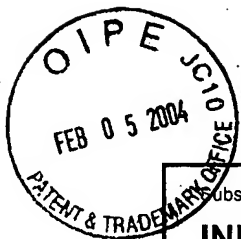
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³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 2 of 2	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	10/726,217
	Filing Date	December 2, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Alan John Smith
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	3146.2.46

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	F1	GB403,769 UK	Jan. 4, 1934	Hibbard		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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